(d) the details of various metals and their quantities likely to be available therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the total resources of copper ore are estimated at 32,00,000 tonnes with metal content of 34,880 tonnes and the total resources of gold ore are estimated at 32,00,000 tonnes with metal content of 4.93 tonnes in Dausa district of Rajasthan as on 1.4.2005.

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out systematic geochemical sampling in Dhani-Basri Copper-Gold prospect in Dausa district of Rajasthan from October, 1999 to September, 2000, followed by test drilling in November, 2000. A resource of 3.2 million tonnes of Gold-Copper ore of possible category at 1.56 ppm Au (gold) and 1.09% Cu (copper) of which 0.89 million tonnes is of probable category with 1.04% Cu and 1.54 ppm Au has been estimated in Dhani-Basri area.

**Mineral deposits in forests/sanctuaries**

1595. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that various precious metals like gold, copper, zinc and platinum are located in dense forests/wild-life sanctuaries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has directed that no mining activity would be allowed in such areas; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, so that these precious and rare minerals could be exploited for the growth of the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per the National Mineral Inventory prepared by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the details of resources of copper, lead and zinc, gold and platinum group of metals located in forest areas as on 1.4.2005 are given below:

(Unit: million tonnes)

| Mineral | Ore | Metal | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| Copper | 13.79 | 0.21 | Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttarakhand |
| Gold | 67.76 | 0.000136 | Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu |
| Lead and zinc | 24 | 1.66 | Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. |
| Platinum group – of Metals | | 0.000014 | Orissa |

(c) The Supreme Court has decreed that mining activity is not permissible in National Parks and Sanctuaries and areas identified as Eco-sensitive/Eco-fragile zones.

(d) As per information made available by Ministry of Environment and Forests, there is no proposal to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

**Gold and diamond reserves**

1596. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to the estimates of Geological Survey of India, the country has six lakh crore and 475 million carats of gold and diamond reserves, respectively;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country imports nearly 800 tonnes of gold every year;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-exploration of such mineral wealth; and

(d) the details of the private companies to whom leases for mining gold and diamond have been given, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines, as on 1.04.2005, the total resources of gold ore (primary) and diamond are estimated at 390.29 million tonnes (with a metal content of 490.81 tonnes) and 4.58 million carats respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. The import of gold in the last few years has been in the range of 700-800 tonnes per annum.

(c) Apart from the regional exploration for gold and diamond undertaken by Geological Survey of India (GSI), since the year 2000 the Government has been giving prior approvals for grant of reconnaissance permits for regional exploration of gold and diamond to various applicants, including private companies. These may convert into mining leases based on the outcome of the exploration, including detailed prospecting.

(d) As per available information, the Central Government has given prior approval for grant of mining lease for gold in favour of three private companies, *viz.*, M/s Manmohan Industries Private Limited in Jharkhand, M/s Ramgad Minerals and Mining Private Limited in Karnataka and M/s Geo Mysore Services India Private Limited in Andhra Pradesh. As informed by the Indian Bureau of Mines, no mining lease for diamond has been granted to a private sector company.

**Coal shortage at NALCO**

1597. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) located in Orissa is facing the crisis of coal at present;

(b) if so, the measure being taken by Government to solve this problem; and